

**Prayer for the divine mercy:** Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Jesus I trust in you.

# ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

11 AUGUST 2019

## FIRST READING

Wisdom 18:6-9.

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

since he has founded the city for them. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

**ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia!  
**Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!**

**RESPONSE** Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-9

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended. It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God,

## GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. 'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.' Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming," and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful. The servant who knows what

his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

## COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

St. Gregory of Nyssa (c. 330-395)

When the Lord says: "Let your loins be girded and your lamps lit," he is warning us to stay awake; for a light shining in one's eyes drives away sleep, and a tightly-fastened belt also makes sleep difficult, as the discomfort prevents relaxation. But the real meaning of the parable is perfectly clear: a person girded with temperance lives in the light of a clear conscience before God. And so, with the light of truth shining, the soul stays awake and is not deceived. It does not dally with illusive dreams. If in following the guidance of the Word we attain this goal, our lives will in a way be like those of the angels, for we are compared with them in the divine command: "You must be like people waiting for their master to return from a wedding, ready to open the door immediately when he comes and knocks." It was the angels who were awaiting the Master's return from the wedding. They sat with unsleeping eyes at the heavenly gates, so that when he returned the King of glory might pass through them once more into the heavenly bliss from which, as the Psalm says, he had come forth like a bridegroom from his tent. He took us to himself as his virgin bride, our nature once prostituted to idols being restored by sacramental rebirth to virginal incorruptibility. After the marriage, when the Church had been wedded to the Word—as John says, "He who has the bride is the bridegroom"—and admitted to the bridal chamber of the sacred mysteries, the angels awaited the King of glory's return to the blessedness which is his by nature. And so the Lord said our lives should be like theirs. Just as they, living lives far removed from sin and error, are ready to receive the Lord at his coming, so we also should keep watch at the entrance of our houses, and prepare ourselves to obey him when he comes to our door and knocks. "Blessed," he says, "are those servants whom the master finds so doing when he comes." (Lk 12:43)

On the Song of Songs 11.

**COMMUNION** The bread that I will give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### ASSUMPTION OF MARY MOST HOLY, HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

Wednesday 14 August 5pm Wentworth Falls (no 10am Mass)

Thursday 15 August 12pm Katoomba

5:15pm Leura

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION MISSION:** This weekend, the Missionaries of the Most Holy Eucharist will give a mission in all three Churches of our parish on Eucharistic Adoration, preaching at all the Masses. We greatly thank Fr Gary Holmes for running this Mission.

On Sunday at 11:00am in St Canice's Church there will be a talk on "How to Adore" followed by guided Adoration ending with Benediction at 12:00pm.

On Monday at 6pm in St Canice's Church there will be a guided Holy Hour — "Adoration and the Saints".

**FOR CHILDREN:** On Monday, 4-5pm in St Canice's Church, there will be a guided holy hour especially for children. Parents are invited to stay.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:** Sunday 18 August.

**Contact your local Member of Parliament** regarding Bill to Decriminalize Abortion. Parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta are encouraged to continue to contact their local NSW State Member of Parliament about this critical issue. You can find your MP's contact details here: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/pages/all-members.aspx](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/pages/all-members.aspx) Simply phone the electorate office during business hours and let them know that you are from the local area, and would like to ask the Member to vote against the abortion bill. If you know a woman experiencing difficulty because of an unexpected pregnancy, please know that there is help available. The Catholic Church, through its many agencies, can provide support to women who feel they have no choice available to them other than abortion. In the Diocese of Parramatta, women and their families have access to assistance through our CatholicCare pregnancy-related services. They can be contacted on (02) 8843 2500. You may pick up a copy of the statement by Bishop Vincent in the back of the Church.

**Scripture teachers urgently needed** to help teach in the state primary schools, morning and afternoon classes Thursdays. Training and teaching materials provided. Please contact the parish office 4782 2804

**THE 2019 'FAITH IN MARRIAGE' SEMINAR:** Friday 30 August at 7.30pm. Guest Speaker is Catholic American Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. He will speak on the topic of 'Building Strong Marriages'. St. Paul's Catholic College Hall – 198 Old Prospect Rd Greystanes. Parking available in the Church grounds of Our Lady Queen of Peace Greystanes. Follow the signs to the Hall. Free entry and light supper. RSVP to [lmf@parracatholic.org](mailto:lmf@parracatholic.org) or (02) 8838 3460.

**CONFIRMATION** this year will take place at St Canice's 8th September 10am Sunday Mass. At this occasion a first-degree relic of Saint John Paul II will be installed in our chapel of Divine Mercy, St Canice's Church, by Right Reverend Peter Williams who will also confer the sacrament of Confirmation on our children.

**FATHER'S DAY APPEAL:** 1 September. This is the Bishop's annual appeal to support retired and sick clergy. More info in the coming weeks.

### USUAL CONFESSION TIMES

**Monday:** Katoomba 9:00am

**Tuesday:** Leura 4:45pm

**Wednesday:** Wentworth Falls 10:30am

**Thursday:** Leura 4:45pm.

**Friday:** Katoomba 12:30pm

**Saturday:** Katoomba 10am Leura 4:30pm

**Sunday:** W. Falls 9am Kat 11am Leura 4:30pm

PARISH OFFICE: 158 Katoomba Street, Katoomba 2780

Postal Address: P.O. Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780

Phone: (02) 4782 2804 Hours: 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.

**DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** JOHN EGAN, GERRY LEAVEY, ANDREW LEAVEY, FRANCIS BEDE MURPHY, DIANNE WOOD, MICHAEL BOURKE, KEVIN JOHN SUTTON, RICHARD WARNER, and ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED ESPECIALLY THOSE FOR WHOM YOU REQUESTED PRAYERS AND MASSES AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** John Murphy, Maureen O'Reilly, Evelyn Maw, Len Lambert, Wanda Heffernan, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Assanti, Alex Sharah, Susan Keegel, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphet, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Gloria Trevallion, Margaret Esgate, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Brenda Dore, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heinger.

## COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

**First - For the Parish:** **Second - For the Diocese:**

\$2,338.55



### ROSTERS for August 18 (20th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

LEURA 5pm	Reader	Sharon Varney
	Server	Zelko Livaic
	Sacristan	Pam + Natale
WENTWORTH FALLS 8am	Reader	Margaret and Matalena
	Server	Sylvester Simon
	Sacristans	Bev and Halina
KATOOMBA 10am	Reader	Mary Gale and Russel Smith
	Server	Michael Wood
	Sacristans	Annette, Matthew, Maylin.
LEURA 5pm	Reader	Marjorie Brown
	Server	Gabe Very
	Sacristan	Pam LeBreton
Counters	Counter	Michael Wood
	Counter	Natale Assanti
	Counter	Ben Howard
	Counter	Russell Smith
	Counter	Lawrence O'Dell
Cleaners (from 15 August)	Kat Church & Hall	Annette and Bernard Yen

### USUAL WEEKDAY MASS TIMES AND DEVOTIONS

**MONDAY:** Mass at Katoomba 8:30am. (On Public Holidays—10am)

**TUESDAY:** Mass at Leura 5.15pm. Exposition 4.45pm.

**WEDNESDAY:** Mass at Wentworth Falls 10.00am.

**THURSDAY:** Mass at Leura 5.15pm. Silent Exposition 4.45pm.

**FRIDAY:** Mass at Katoomba 12 noon.

**SATURDAY:** Mass at Katoomba 9.30am. Cenacle after.

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES:** Saturday Evening at Leura 5.00pm

Wentworth Falls Sunday 8.00am Katoomba Sunday 10.00am

Leura Sunday 5.00pm

Weddings: Please call Parish Office for details. (Baptisms: upon request)

Parish Website at: [www.marymackillopupperbluemountains.org.au](http://www.marymackillopupperbluemountains.org.au)

Parish Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Blue-Mountains-Catholic-567984977037106](http://www.facebook.com/Blue-Mountains-Catholic-567984977037106)

Parish School: St Canice's Primary School, Katoomba Principal: Mr. Mark Geerligns